

# SOCIETY

## TAKES ON NEW LIFE WITH THE RETURN OF CONGRESS

WITH the beginning of this week, society will be up and doing, and doing with a will. It will dine, lunch, and dance from tomorrow until the last thing on Saturday night. The debutant teas and luncheons have been the prologue, and the entertainments at the White House mark the opening of the real play. Mrs. Roosevelt will begin her season with a tea on Wednesday afternoon at 5 o'clock to the Diplomatic Corps, and this will be followed by the first Cabinet dinner to take place on Thursday evening. After that the season is on in earnest.

The past week is a memorable one for debutantes. There have been as many as three teas in one day and as many luncheons, presenting these buds to society, and a notable group they are, for beauty and grace. The debutante teas this season have been the most elaborate ones in the social history of Washington. The arrangements and appointments of most of them have vied with those of the most important weddings. Orchids, which have hitherto been a rarity and a luxury, have been as plentifully used at these functions as roses have been other seasons, which, although a small thing, is a plain indication of the advancement and progress of the age.

The gowns have kept pace with the decorations, and the outfit of a debutante of the season of 1906-7 eclipses the trousseau of many a bride of social importance. Chiffons, embroidered crepes, orchids, rare lace, splendid furs, all contribute to make up the bud's belongings for her coming-out season.

The only magnificence which they leave to their mamas exclusively is the jewels. They have not yet appeared with diamonds or other precious stones, except on their fingers, which is good taste, for which they are to be commended.

The opening of Congress brought renewed vigor to the belles and beaux, and even the streets have taken on an air of industry such as they have not known since last Easter. With the return of the official world to their official homes, the greatest interest is shown in the hostesses of the reconstructed Cabinet circle. There will be but three new members of the Cabinet, therefore, three new hostesses, and the others will play a little game of "pussy-wants-a-corner" with the various portfolios. Only one of the hostesses is an entire stranger in Washington society. This is Mrs. Oscar S. Straus, of New York, whose husband will become the new Secretary of Commerce and Labor, on the moving up in the line of Mr. Cortelyou, the present Postmaster General. Mrs. Straus has been a guest in Washington many times, but not at any time for a prolonged season. These visits were made for most part during the second administration of President Cleveland. They will make the new house of ex-Senator and Mrs. J. B. Henderson, on upper Sixteenth street, their Washington residence. This is one of the most distinctive houses in fashionable Washington. It is a veritable pink palace, of the Italian Renaissance style, and finished on the interior in a manner quite in keeping with its delicate and fanciful exterior.

It is well adapted for entertaining, and will doubtless become one of the social centers after the installation of the new Secretary and Mrs. Straus. There are no children in the family, but the Strauses are very popular, and, possessed of many friends, will not often be alone.

Mrs. James R. Garfield, whose husband will be the successor of Mr. Hitchcock as Secretary of the Interior, has been identified with official life in Washington for some years. She has scores of friends and admirers, and is easily one of the popular young hostesses of her circle. Mrs. Garfield was, before her marriage, Miss Helen Newell, an accomplished woman of many graces. Their home is on LeRoy place, on Kalorama Heights, and is a rendezvous for a circle of interesting and prominent women.

Mrs. George von L. Meyer made the acquaintance of most all official and diplomatic society last spring, when she, with her daughters, spent three months in the rented house of the counselor of the British Embassy and Lady Townley, the home of the Morgan-Hills, who were abroad. Mrs. Meyer and her daughters were much liked. They are all skilled in the ways of polite society, as they are members of a fashionable circle in Boston, and have for some years been upholding the social dignity of the American Embassies in Italy, and more recently in Russia, where the young daughters were presented to society, just as the daughter of the Secretary of the Interior and Mrs. Hitchcock were during his regime as Ambassador to St. Petersburg.

Mrs. Meyer was formerly Miss Alice Appleton, and her daughters are the Misses Julia and Alice, and their only son is George Meyer.

The personnel of the President's military and naval aides and assistant aides is always one of the matters of great moment to both maids and matrons in Washington society. They are generally designated to serve for two years, some longer, according to their length of service in Washington at the Barracks, Navy Yard, or in the departments. There is an unwritten law that they must be unmarried, except for the President's military aide and his naval aide, who have as a rule been married men and more experienced in society and in the "service" than their younger associates.

This year there are three new ones to add interest in the imposing little group of officers who attend the comforts and needs of the guests at the various White House functions. Col. Charles Sumner Bromwell remains the President's military aide, and Lieut. Commander Albert L. Key remains his naval aide. There are three new assistant aides, in Lieut. Douglas MacArthur, U. S. A.; Lieut. C. R. Train, U. S. N.; and Ensign Semmes Read, U. S. N. The other assistant aides are the same as last year, and include Capt. Arthur E. Harding, U. S. M. C.; Capt. Frank R. McCoy, U. S. A.; Lieut. Chauncey Shackford, U. S. N.; Capt. Fitzhugh Lee, U. S. A., and Lieut. Philip Sheridan, U. S. A.

The duties of these young officers are purely social.

The Vice President and Mrs. Fairbanks will start their entertaining next Saturday evening with the dinner which they will have for the President and Mrs. Roosevelt. Other dinner invitations have been sent out by them for December 18 and 22.

The other Presidential dinners will come as follows: The Secretary of State and Mrs. Root, December 20; the Secretary of the Treasury and Mrs. Shaw, January 8; the Secretary of War and Mrs. Taft, January 15, and so on each week until each member of the Cabinet has entertained the Chief Executive and his wife in the order of their precedence, with the exception of the present Postmaster General and Mrs. Cortelyou, who are in mourning and will, therefore, not have their dinner until the spring season.

Miss Helen Cannon, daughter of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, has not announced any dates, for she has been superintending the making of her home presentable for the winter season since her return from her Western home, and has done little going out except for the important concerts.

Miss Helen Cannon is a devotee of old books, and she is always looking through antique stores for rare specimens. She finds much amusement in annotations in such old volumes and sometimes a touch of pathos. In a vellum-bound book of early English poets she recently found in the pocket for notes, which those ancient books always contain, a diary of the former owners. They were from the Palmetto State, and the book had been brought from England by an ancestor. Locks of golden hair, bearing a child's name and a date a century distant, were among the treasures.



MRS. GARFIELD,  
Wife of the Next Secretary of the  
Interior.

### Personal

Justice and Mrs. Brewer have sent out cards for a reception Saturday, December 22, to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary.

Mrs. John A. Logan has invitations out for a tea Tuesday afternoon, December 12, in compliment to Mrs. Lawton, widow of General Lawton and Mrs. Liscum, widow of General Liscum.

The engagement is announced of Miss Addie Pigman, daughter of Rear Admiral and Mrs. George W. Pigman, to Charles Robert Pollard, of Arkansas City, Kan. Only a small family party will attend the wedding, which will take place Wednesday, December 19, in the home of the bride's parents, in Calvert street.

Gen. and Mrs. A. E. Bates left Washington today for Havana, Cuba, where they will spend the Christmas holidays and remain until some time in January.

Lady Durand and Miss Durand have cards out for a small dance, Monday, December 17, at 10 o'clock.

Baroness Hengelmüller will leave Washington tomorrow for New York, where she will remain until the return of the ambassador from Europe.

Miss Wilson, daughter of William James Wilson, presented her younger sister, Miss Helen Wilson, to society last night at an attractively arranged dinner dance in Chevy Chase Club. The party was chaperoned by Capt. and Mrs. Southland, and the young people of the party were Miss Marian Stevens, Miss Eleanor Slater, Miss Esther Denny, Miss Marion Leutze, Miss Miriam Crosby, Miss Joanna Schroeder, Miss Laura Wells, Miss Ruth Tanner, Miss Katherine Clabaugh, Miss Olga Converse, Miss Katherine Jennings, Fred Faust, John S. Flannery, Mr. Bingham, Dr. Lehr, Dr. William Mason, Chauncey Hackett, Charles Harris, Hugh Rowland, Dan Duncan, Gould Lincoln, Mr. Donn, Lieutenant Shackford, Dr. Dixon, Charles Gregory, John Davidge and Charles Wilson.

The table was daintily decorated in yellow chrysanthemums, effectively arranged in the center with clusters of electric lights underneath, and the name cards were attractive little colonial affairs, hand painted. The dining room and ball room of the club were gracefully decorated with palms and autumn leaves and presented an attractive scene with the prettily appointed table and the handsome toilettes of the women.

The debutants, who is one of the most charming buds of the season, wore a becoming costume of white crepe, trimmed with blue velvet and real lace, and



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MRS. OSCAR S. STRAUS,  
Wife of the Newly Designated Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

a large picture hat with white plumes. Miss Wilson's costume was a modish gown of green messaline and a large green tulle hat.

Miss Marie Barnes, whose marriage to Lieut. Mark Brooke, U. S. A., will take place Wednesday, is being considerably entertained this week. Yesterday Mrs. Andrew Y. Bradley, one of her attendants, was hostess at luncheon for the bridesmaids.

Last night Mrs. E. R. Hadley, the other matron of honor, entertained at dinner complimentary to Miss Barnes and the entire bridal party. At the table were Miss Barnes, Miss Florence Conrad, the maid of honor; Miss Brooke,

cousin of the bridegroom; Miss Evelyn Chew, Miss Louise Chase, Miss Heister Shepard, Mrs. Andrew Y. Bradley, Lieutenant Brooke, Lieutenant McArthur, Lieutenant Dillon, Lieutenant Robbins, Lieutenant Earle, Lieutenant Dent, General MacKenzie, and Mr. and Mrs. Hendley.

Other dinner hosts last night were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Denby, who had as their guests Colonel and Mrs. Bromwell, Mr. and Mrs. Chandler Hale, Mrs. Nicholas Fish, Miss Riddley, Captain and Mrs. Brewster, Mr. Kroupensky and Prince Koudacheff, both of the Russian embassy staff, and Mr. and Mrs. George T. Marye, who entertained Admiral and Mrs. Rogers, Admiral and Mrs. Mason; Mrs. Tubbs, of San Francisco; Mr. and Mrs. Whittel, of San Francisco; Miss Doyle, Mrs. Hancock, Frederick May, Colonel Biddle, and Mr. Saller, of Philadelphia.

Senator and Mrs. Fernando Money are located at the Portner for the season. Their youngest daughter, Mrs. William Whitney Kitchen, is their guest for the winter and will be welcomed by many friends who remember her a few years ago as the charming Mabel Money. Mrs. Beverly Read, formerly Lily Money, is now in the Philippines with her husband, Lieutenant Read, who is detailed as judge advocate general at Ilo-Ilo. Senator Money's granddaughter, Miss Claude Money Hill, daughter of the Hon. Wilson S. Hill, will be in town this winter and make her bow to society. Miss Hill is a girl of great beauty and an accomplished musician, as well as gifted with a fine voice.

Gen. John B. Henderson is still confined to the house from poor health, but is reported to be each day rapidly improving. Mrs. Henderson, who is a woman of fine business ability, spends part of each morning in superintending the construction of the palatial residence which is being constructed on Columbia Heights, where the new Secretary of Commerce and Labor, the Hon. Oscar Straus, will make his home.

Thomas F. Walsh is in Denver attending the good roads convention.

The reception of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Winters was held in their apartment in the Truxton, 203 F street northwest, Monday evening, from 7 to 9. Many friends called to congratulate them and tender their good wishes. Mrs. Winters was formerly Miss Hill.

Among the guests were Hon. and Mrs. G. A. Smith, S. T. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. McDowell, Mrs. R. N. Harper, Mrs. Daw, Mrs. and Miss Brice, Dr. and Mrs. H. C. Thompson, Mrs. Solger, Dr. and

MRS. GEORGE VON L. MEYER,  
Wife of the Newly Appointed Postmaster General.

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